(b) In respect of industries other than those in Annxure III to the Statement on Industiral Policy, automatic permission will be given subject to the same guidelines as above if no free foreign exchange is required for any payments.

All other proposals will need specific approval under the general procedures in force.

The facility of automatic permission will thus be available to all industries, including synthetic, diamonds, welding, electrodes and food processing industries as long as the above criteria is fulfilled.

Indigenous Newsprint for small and medium newspapers

*66. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Newspapers Editor's Conference has urged Government to set apart the indigenous newsprint for small and medium newspapers as these newspapers cannot afford to buy imported newsprint;

(b) whether due to devaluation of rupee, it has now become costlier for small and medium newspapers to buy imported newsprint; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The current prices of standard newsprint are given in the Statement (*See* below)

(c) The small and medium newspapers with an annual entitlement upto 200 MT have the option to take indigenous or imported Newsprint either in part or in full.

Statement

The prices of standard newsprint

I. *Indigenous Newsprint*

	(Rupees per MT)	
(i) Nepa Ltd.	14,800/-	(52GSM)
(ii) Mysore Paper Mills	16,905/-	(58/49 GSM)
(iii) Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	16,255/-	(48/49 GSM)
(iv) Tamilnadu Newsprint and Paper Ltd.	17,270/-	(49 GSM)
II. *Imported Newsprint*		
(i) Imported other than Bangladesh	16,000/-+800 as surcharge	(49 GSM)
(ii) Bangladesh	14,800/-+800 as surcharge	(49 GSM)

Uranium deposits in Meghalaya

*67. **SHRI G. G. SWELL:**
DR. NARREDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large deposits of uranium have been discovered at Domiasiat, West Khasi Hills in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the grade of the uranium and its estimated quantity;

(c) since when exploration in the area has statred;

(d) the area that will be covered in mining of uranium;

(e) whether there are indications of more uranium in the adjacent areas; if so, whether any preliminary

survey of these areas has been made; and

(f) by when Government propose to undertake mining in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Uranium Deposit in Meghalaya

(a) Yes, Sir. Exploratory survey and investigations have revealed the occurrence of a sizeable amount of sandstone type uranium deposits at Domiasiat, West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.

(b) It is a low to medium tonnage relatively high grade uranium deposit, the average grade being 0.10 percent U 308. Uranium at Domiasiat has been estimated at 9,559 Tonnes U 308 contained in 9.22 Million Tonnes of ore.

(c) Reconnaissance Radiometric surveys for uranium have been initiated in domiasiat and surrounding areas during 1984.

(d) An area of about 3 sq. kms will be required for mining and 7 sq. kms would be required for milling and other infrastructural facilities.

(e) and (f) A number of uranium occurrences have been located in the area adjoining domiasiat viz. Phot Pyrnotbri, Phot Jimrey, Phot Rang-Teng Peng, Phot Mawrang and Phot Khandrowo. Detailed investigations including geological mapping, exploratory drilling around domiasiat have indicated low order uranium mineralisation. Further drilling in Phlangdiloin and Mawkyrwat areas is in progress. Test mining for drawing bulk samples for amenability tests is being taken up. Commencement of full scale mining may take over two years.

Prices of mustard oil

*68. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mustard oil prices are rising as reported in the Business and Political Observer dated the 14th August, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that edible oil prices are likely to affect prices of other commodities also, specially foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Mustard oil prices had been rising in the recent past. Of late, however, the prices are showing a downward trend.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to contain prices of edible oils are:

(i) Stock limits of oilseeds and oils by dealers and processors and manufacturers' of edible oils/vanaspati have been reduced.

(ii) The permission to use expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of Vanaspati has been withdrawn with effect from 1st August, 1991.

(iii) RBI has frozen cash credit limit.

(iv) Central Government has directed all State Governments/ Union Territories to have strict surveillance on the availability and price of edible oils as also to undertake dehoarding operations.

(v) A Cabinet Committee on Prices has been constituted for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supplies.